



May Briefs:

Environment Report Available

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Division of Environment has published its biennial *Kansas Environment 2008* report. The report was developed to foster discussion and examination of environmental issues in the state. The 17-page report provides a status of air, land, and water issues as they relate to the programs administered by KDHE.

The report is available on the KDHE Web site at

http://www.kdheks.gov/environment/download/Kansas_Environment_2008.pdf .

Printed copies are available by request at info@kdhe.state.ks.us.

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month

Whether it's a hearing loss, difficulty with swallowing or balance, a disorder such as stuttering or delayed language, or a voice problem, a person's ability to learn and interact with others can be affected.

If you suspect you or a loved one may be experiencing such a problem, consult an audiologist or speech-language pathologist certified by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

The following Web site has additional information <http://www.asha.org/bhsm/resources.html> .

Sound Beginnings will be providing free hearing screening at the KDHE Health Fair in recognition of May Better Hearing and Speech Month. For more information, contact Kim Aiello (785) 296-6135.

Sunflower State Games Seeks Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to assist with the running of July's Sunflower State Games in Topeka. The Games are held July 11-13, 18-20, and 25-27. Volunteers can register online at www.sunflowergames.com or fax a volunteer form to (785) 235-1308.



SSG Volunteer Form

KANSAS awarded Family-to-Family grant

Kansas' Families Together, Inc. has become one of 40 states awarded a Family-to-Family (F2F) Grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Maternal and Child Health Bureau. Services that will be provided to Kansas families under this grant program include: (1) assistance to families of children with special health care needs to make informed choices about health care in order to promote good treatment decisions, cost effectiveness and improved health outcomes; (2) information regarding the health care needs of and resources available for CSHCN; (3) training and guidance regarding the care of CSHCN.

For the past 25 years, Families Together, Inc. has served as Kansas' statewide Parent Training and Information Center (PTI) providing one-to-one assistance to families of children and youth with disabilities. Assistance includes help with educational matters, linkage with community services, training and information on leadership and advocacy, and represents the needs of families to policymakers. Through a contractual arrangement, Families Together serves the families of children participating in the Infant-Toddler Program and the Children with Special Health Care Needs program at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Bridging the Gap June Training

Bridging the Gap is a five-day training in medical and social services interpreting for bilingual interpreters. After attending all classes and passing a final exam, participants receive a certificate of completion in "Bridging the Gap." Participants receive a handbook, glossary and an interpreter's guide to common medications.

The next training will be held June 23-27 in Emporia at the Flint Hills Education Center, 1700 W. 7th Ave. The course runs from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and is **free of charge through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment**. However, online registration through KS Train is required for this course. Register online for at KS TRAIN: <http://ks.train.org> and complete the Jewish Vocational Service (JVS) application form attached to "Go To Step 2" of registration. Send your application to JVS, 1608 Baltimore Ave., Kansas City, MO 64108, or fax it to (816) 471- 2930. For more information contact Cathy Anderson at (816) 471-2808 or check out the JVS Web site at www.jvskc.org.

Kansas School Nurse Conference set for July

The 2008 Kansas School Nurse Conference that will be held at the Wichita Hyatt, July 14 – 18. This year's school nurse conference will assist nurses in addressing the health needs of all students, with a focus on school success for children with chronic health conditions. This year's conference, *All Children Healthy and Learning: School Success Through Health Promotion and Management of Chronic Health Conditions*, emphasizes the importance of comprehensive health planning by the school nurse with the school, community health provider, family, and student as a partner so that the focus for the student can be on educational achievement.

To fully explore the educational opportunities at the school nurse conference and to register, access the brochure on-line at <http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=conted&p=/ksn/>.

United Way Statewide 2-1-1 resource locator now available

Kansans now have an easy way to either request help or to give help with a new "one-call" number that links people to thousands of community resources via the Internet. What type of services will United Way 2-1-1 help caller find? To view the new United Way 2-1-1 of Kansas resource and explore services available in your area, visit www.unitedwayplains.org/211kansas.htm.



Got news about people, places & events? Send it to KDHE News: snorman@kdhe.state.ks.us.